

# Viking Saga

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

OCTOBER 2016

ISSUE 2



## Northwest men to debut in "Doods"

By CRESTIE TOMPSON

Northwest High School's director of choirs, David Sackschewsky, is spicing up the show choir world with a brand-new show choir. While most single-gender choirs are traditionally all-female, this new group will be completely made up of boys. The name of this new show choir is the "Doods."

Many of the members of the show choir are really excited about the new organization.

"I think the creation of the Doods was a great ideal" senior Topher Roseland said.

In senior Mitch Fisher's opinion, the Doods aspire to be as successful as the varsity show choir, 14 Karat Gold.

"Many of us have seen success in 14 Karat, and we don't expect anything less with the Doods," Fisher said.

CONT. ON PG 8

### School District Meetings

Northwest administration discusses the future of the district.

PAGE 3



### Dancing with the Staff

A new dance team fundraiser involves the Northwest faculty.

PAGE 4



### Missing School for Sports

How do Northwest students cope with missing school?

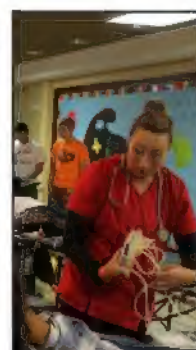
PAGE 5



### Blood Drive

Students in National Honor Society and FBLA volunteer for the annual blood drive.

PAGE 8





# Land of the free?

BY BRENDEN HOLLING



If you haven't already heard, there's been some news about the National Anthem lately. Professional athletes have used their fame and media attention to bring a spotlight to racism in this country by protesting the National Anthem. San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick first demonstrated this by kneeling for the National Anthem during his team's preseason games. Then, it got swept up by the media and spread like wildfire. WNBA teams, other professional football players and even high school athletes have taken part in this. It is all because of the recent shootings of African-Americans by white cops.

These players have their right to protest their beliefs in the national setting. But I think they are doing it in the wrong way. I fully respect these athletes who are protesting, but sitting for the National Anthem doesn't really mean anything to those cops. I feel it disrespects the military more. The military stands for what the flag is: freedom. I know Kaepernick has said that he has great respect for the military, but he's got to show it. Cops aren't the ones who hold the flag during the National Anthem: it is the veterans.

This protest has even reached close to us in Nebraska. Michael Rose-Ivey, a linebacker for the University of Nebraska, and two other teammates also participated in the protest. The Nebraska players were much more detailed in their reason for their protest, citing the death threats and vulgar language that had been used toward them on

social media. This proves their point about the racism in this country. There are racist people in the United States, but it's an overstatement to say all people are racist like some protesters would have us believe.

Kaepernick is donating \$1 million of his \$19 million contract to organizations that try to stop racial injustice. That's a good start, but I don't think that is going to help. Cops have a tough job. They have to make life or death decisions in the matter of seconds. When a couple of those decisions are wrong, the media blows up and says the cop was a racist and wanted to kill people so that's why he got the job. The media spreads false information and then groups of people start rioting over the false information. Kaepernick either needs to spend the money on teaching people to comply to the police or teaching the media not to get everybody so riled up.

I'm not saying all cops are good. There are some pretty demented cops who wanted to kill somebody, and they should be charged appropriately. For the cops who made the wrong split second decisions, don't listen to the media. If the media portrays you as a killer or a murderer, don't listen to them. Cops have one job, and that is to protect the citizens of the area that they are in charge of. If there is a crazy person who looks like they might do harm to the people, you have the right to use your power to stop them. All I know is that I wouldn't want to be a cop right now, and that's saying there's something wrong with the nation.

I completely respect the first amendment--the freedom of speech. Nobody should get in trouble for protesting. You can say something back to the protesters, but nothing that will threaten them. I don't care if you agree or disagree with them; you have to respect them.

My opinion on the protesters: please just stop. Obviously it's not working. I don't care that you are protesting, but I'm just tired of hearing about you and seeing nothing done about the racism. The whole nation has seen what you are doing and commented about it, and nothing still has been done about it. You guys are just bringing more racism into the picture because it makes you look bad. It makes you look like you hate the nation as a whole. If you have a valid reason for your protest, like the Nebraska football players, I would like to hear it. Just think about it protesters: would you want to live in a country like North Korea or Russia? Yes, everybody is treated equally, but everybody is oppressed. So, stand up for the nation's song and be proud of being a citizen of the great United States of America.

## VIKING SAGA

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Any and all submissions must be signed to be considered for publication, and the editor reserves the right to edit or print any submissions.

VikingMedia



# Northwest School District contemplates changes

*Administration holds a series of public meetings to discuss the future of the district*

BY LACIE NELSON

On Wednesday September 29, the first meeting was held by the Northwest school district at Cedar Hollow to look at some possible new options for the district's future direction. This is the first time since 2009 the issue has been brought up. The school district is working with a company named DLR Group, a company devoted to facilitating education in the most efficient way, in order to look at all possible options.

There are four meetings being held, all open to the public, in order to cover key issues and their solutions while keeping the opinions of the district's residents and non-residents alike open for discussion. Even at the first meeting listeners were able to weigh

in and ask questions letting everyone know their concerns and/or support.

"This is a very critical time for setting the course for the future of Northwest. I think everyone who has a stake in the future of the district should get involved in the process," superintendent Matt Fisher said.

One of the reasons Northwest has decided to look at implementing new changes is the cost of operation and its burden on taxpayers. The DLR Group observed the curriculum across the district last spring and stayed to observe the architecture, logistics, and efficiency of the district's properties during the summer. Their observations concluded that the district's space was being used inefficiently, and that costs could be reduced by changing the structure of the district.

"We started looking at ways we could save money. With the increase in farmland valuation we stopped getting state aid money from the state and all the cost of the schools shifted to our taxpayers so the board felt we needed to look at being more efficient. This discussion then shifted to how can we provide the best possible education while being as efficient as possible," Fisher said.

Another reason Northwest looks to change up the layout of the district is that the current middle schools' facilities don't allow for exploratory programs, fail to provide sufficient art, music, and vocational classrooms, and lack SPED and conference spaces. A grand total of 88,312 square feet of added space would be needed across the district to make all the buildings equitable. The DLR Group also mentions that, if the district were to expand all of their buildings, there would be many technical necessities to take care of. However, there may be more efficient options.

"Several of the options we are looking at provide for a middle school. I feel that this is the educational component that we most need to work toward. We are currently underserving our middle school students by not having a series of exploratory classes that would allow them the opportunity to find out

more about themselves. Hopefully we will be in a structure where we have two or three elementary buildings and a middle school along with our current high school," Fisher said.

Some of the key issues covered during the meeting were how many buildings the district really needs and whether or not consolidation should be an option, the issue of having too much space in all the wrong places, what size the district should be and how many option students the district should take on, inequity amongst the middle school programs, and why students are leaving to go to a GIPS middle school but coming back to Northwest for high school. Many of these concerns have some worried about the cost on taxpayers, and others are worried about the future of option students.

"I would expect that in [a] structure [with a middle school and less elementary schools] the number of students going to school in our district would be about the same as we have now. The decision could also be made to dramatically shrink the district, which I feel could have some very negative effects on the education we are offering and on the stability of the district into the future," Fisher said.



Attendees from the community discuss the future of the school district at the first informational meeting on September 29, held at Cedar Hollow school. A series of four meetings were held to inform district patrons.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STRIV TV

However, some options were presented to solve these issues, one being to fix each of the six buildings. Other options include converting one elementary school, possibly Cedar Hollow, into a middle school and consolidating the other elementary schools. One final option presented at the meeting was the construction of a new middle school building on the Northwest campus, but the meeting was left with many attendees making their own plans for the direction of the school.



Teachers and faculty members all over Northwest have been preparing to show off their best moves at the fall concert on November 4. Chosen teachers are practicing with the Vikettes to participate in a new segment called "Dancing With the Staff." Their fancy footwork will help raise money for the Vikettes' competition season.

"We will be performing the routines at the fall concert and since it is a fundraiser, you vote with money. During intermission there will be buckets for each team to put your donation in. One dollar equals one vote," senior Morgan Garrett said.

There are 10 "teams" competing, each consisting of one staff member and one Vikette. The teams, who will all compete with different styles of music, are supposed to practice once a week with their partners; however, for some preparation has yet to begin.

"I have not prepared yet, no practices. But I am very excited to do it and support our awesome music and dance programs. This will be a lot of fun. I am looking forward to the evening," Stein said.

However, some teachers have been practicing whenever they can, and are very excited to be doing it.

"We have been practicing in my room after school. It has been so much fun! We [dance in the style of] Broadway, so we are more open to what we can do, but I'm a little nervous because I haven't ever danced in front of a crowd before!" Spanish teacher Tara Martin said.

Martin isn't the only nervous one, though. Science teacher Jennifer Verba has been feeling trepidation for the event.

"I'm nervous because I don't have stellar dance moves, so hopefully people are expecting a lot of mess-ups from me and fantastic facial expressions," Verba said.

Teachers are more than just excited,

## Dancing with the staff

*Vikettes raise money by entertaining the audience at the fall concert with a little faculty footwork*

BY LACIE NELSON

however; many of them are learning more about dancing and performing.

"I am happy to participate in this dance because it's a fundraiser and an opportunity to let my guard down, but I am excited to get it over with only because as I practice, it reminds me how old and uncoordinated I am becoming. I see Bekah make the dance moves look easy, but when I try to copy her, my brain and body do not work fast enough to keep up; then it's on to the next move," social studies teacher Mike Saddler said.

There are other teachers who have also learned that dance is not always as easy as it looks. Athletic director Michael Sorensen also agrees that dance is a challenge he didn't expect.

"It has been fun, yet a challenge. I have learned that pom is very precise and difficult--for me. I truly have a deeper respect for cheer/dance. It has been a fun challenge," Sorensen said.

While some teachers are just having fun, other teachers are truly getting into the spirit of competition. Activities director P.J. Smith notes that he has been working hard to be the best.

"When I thought of 80s Jazz, I thought of slow songs that weren't going to be much fun. Boy, was I wrong. It has been a blast, [but] being first is tough work you know. You have to put in more time than others," Smith joked.

The teachers aren't the only ones enthusiastic for the upcoming event. The Vikettes are also excited to be reversing the roles and teaching the teachers what they know best--dance.

"We chose our partners and [dance] styles 'white elephant'-style, where we sat in a circle by grade and chose partners starting with the freshmen. Then we chose style starting with the seniors. The dancers choreographed the routines, [and] it's been a blast! The teachers are talking smack [to each other] and really getting into it. I can't wait for everyone to see the show," Garrett said.

## TEAMS

50s  
Team  
Shack  
& Addie  
Dupler



LYRICAL  
Team  
Stein  
& Katanah  
Tuxhorn



POM  
Team  
Sorensen  
& Elise  
Espeland



BALLET  
Team Gibson  
& Madison  
Roberts



HIP HOP  
Team McNeil  
& Heidi  
Cooper



CURRENT JAZZ  
Team Verba  
& Madi  
VanBuskirk



20s  
Team  
Saddler  
& Rebekah  
Saddler



80s JAZZ  
Team  
Smith  
& Lexie  
Long



DISCO  
Team  
Harrington  
& Morgan  
Garrett



BROADWAY  
Team  
Martin  
& Maddy  
Jankovitz

# Athletes try to balance schoolwork and sports

BY BRENDEN HOLLING

In any school, extracurricular activities are usually the reason for students missing a lot of school. At Northwest, the students are normally out earlier than most schools for activities since there aren't many Class B schools near Northwest.

This year, four out of the five away games for Northwest football were over 75 miles away. For

example, players left at noon for the Scottsbluff game just to get to their game at eight.

"I like going out [west] simply because of the bonding that goes on," senior football player Jacy Rodenbaugh said.

These long trips made the players miss over half their classes and prepare for their absence.

"I usually try and see what we are doing the day before I have to leave," senior football player Justin Strong said.

Northwest golfers seem to have had the toughest time with missing school. They usually had one or two meets a week and sometimes left before school started. Golfers ended up missing up to 12 whole days of school.

"I hated it. It's hard to stay caught up on the school work when you are gone a lot," junior golfer Erika Bennett said.

Even teachers that are coaches have a tough time missing school since they are gone from their job often.

"It is difficult. I have to prepare sub plans for each of the days I have to be gone and then

follow up on any notes that the substitute left. Not only that, I think that especially early on in the school year, it becomes tough for the students to learn who I am and what my expectations are. Likewise, it's very difficult for me to do the same. Here's something to think about - the week of October 17 was the first week that I had been in school, teaching, all five days since the school year started," golf coach Alex Hull said.

Student athletes have realized that making up school work they were gone for is really hard.

"It is difficult missing school for activities. Some weeks I'll be gone multiple days. It doesn't help frequently missing AP classes because they are at the end of the day," senior cross country runner Mitch Fisher said.

Most students have figured out the trick to getting back on track in school.

"The thing that is hard about missing school is making up the homework. I handle missing classes by putting in more time outside of school," junior student trainer Abby Campbell said.

## Northwest girls golf team signs away another season

*Despite disappointing Districts, girls have successful season*

BY BRENDEN HOLLING AND CHAZZ RALSTON

This year, Northwest's girls golf season was somewhat difficult because the seniors that graduated last year were not a part of the team. With some inexperienced players and some newcomers, coach Alex Hull stayed optimistic.

"The girls golf season began on August 8 in the midst of heat and humidity--the oppressiveness of the late summer gave way to a very favorable fall. Of the eleven girls who became our team, eight returned from last year's team. One addition to our team was Julie Hall who transferred from Grand Island Senior High. We also welcomed two new golfers--Abby Leigh and Sydney Holmes," Hull said.

One of the biggest changes coming into this year was the new rule allowing coaches to coach from tee to green.

"Throughout the year we learned both the positives and negatives of this change and the balance that is required to take advantage of this new rule," Hull said.

The season had seen a lot of girls placing at meets.

"At the Central City Scramble, the team of Anna Korte, Emily Maruska, and Maddie Rivera was fifth in the first division, and the team of Ashley Stoltenberg, Hope Smith, and Julie Hall was 2nd in the second division. At the Columbus Lakeview Invite at Quail Run, we finished as a team in 3rd place with medal winners Korte finishing 12th and Hall finishing 9th. At the GICC invite, Hall shot a career low 93 and placed third," Hull said.

Although during the regular season the girls played well, the Conference and District tournaments were a different story.

"We closed the season with conference and district, both at York. At conference, Hall placed 8th. Districts, which was scheduled for Tuesday, was moved to Monday due to weather. While we improved our team score from the previous tournament, we still fell short of qualifying for the state tournament on a windy, frustrating day," Hull said.

Even though the season had a tough and disappointing ending, they're still determined for the future.

"We will be working hard in the offseason to improve as golfers. We will place an emphasis on playing in the summer to have a strong season next year," Hull said.



(Top) The girls team including junior Anna Korte, sophomore Peyton Traudt, senior Emily Maruska, junior Madelyn Rivera, and junior Julie Hall, pose for a picture after the Columbus Lakeview Invite. (Bottom) Ashley Stoltenberg lines up a putt during the Crete Invite.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX HULL



# NOT TOO OLD FOR HALLOWEEN FUN

## Local haunted house really "knocks your knees"

BY DAMARIS TORRES

KneeKnocker Woods is a terrifying but exciting experience. It's located in rural Nebraska, just west of Gibbon on Highway 30 and is a creation of Icon Poly, a company that creates custom 3D sculptures. General admission for KneeKnocker Woods is \$15. I believe the wait for tickets was a bit long, but it was worth it.

I give the haunted woods 8 out of 10

bloodthirsty zombies. There was a part when really nothing happened and I just walked through foggy darkness, which left me in suspense. There were also times when I was chased, which added to the fear, tension, and adrenaline. The costumes were also fairly realistic, which contributed to the spooky effect.

I rate the food a 7 out of 10 because there weren't many options to choose from. It's mostly snacks like cookies

and popcorn. They did have drinks, and their hot chocolate was the perfect temperature for a cold day. The snacks were good, but I would have expected more.

I recommend KneeKnocker Woods because it's a fun and scary experience. I wouldn't recommend it to people who don't like being scared or don't like things popping up at them. But for anybody who likes a good scare, it is sure to be a terrifying treat.



**TICKET BOOTH  
OPENS AT 7:00 PM**

Oct. 28th } closes at  
Oct. 29th } midnight

Oct. 30th } closes at  
Oct. 31st } 11:00 pm



# Do you feel unsafe while trick-or-treating?



**FRESHMAN CALEB STRONG**

I feel very unsafe, as if people are always in that state of mind, feeling [that] it's their duty to scare people. I think a lot of people feel this [way]. That is why this clown talk scares the living crap out of me.



**JUNIOR MIA PEIRCE**

Kind of, when I take my brothers, because of all the stuff that happens nowadays. Like the clowns and just weirdos that like to actually scare little kids.



**SENIOR SAEBRYNNE MCCARVILLE**

No, because you're surrounded by people who want to have fun. Everyone just wants to show off their costumes and collect some candy.

## Too old to Trick-or-Treat?

### Do you stay home and hand out candy?

No, my parents do **44.1%**

Yes, but I wear normal clothing **25.2%**

Yes, and I dress up **12.9%**

No, we turn away trick-or-treaters/pretend we're not home **17.8%**



### When do you think someone should stop dressing up and going trick-or-treating?

**37.6%** NEVER

**6.9%** Elementary School

**29.3%** Middle School

**19.3%** High School

**6.9%** College



### Do you dress up and go trick-or-treating?

**1.4%** Yes, by myself

**44.8%** No

**30.3%** Yes, with a group of friends

**15.2%** I don't dress up, but I take children trick-or-treating

**8.3%** Yes, to take children trick-or-treating



\*OUT OF 293 RESPONSES

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Northwest choir guys are stepping up to the plate when it comes to their skills.

"We have a lot of really strong guys in the choirs this year- the Doods will do a great job," sophomore Jared Roseland said.

Senior Topher Roseland thinks that the Doods have a very bright future ahead of them for the next show choir season.

"We have gotten a lot of comments from judges and other choirs about how our guys are really good, so I think that it will be pretty successful," Topher said.

This year, the Doods will be choreographed by Ben Eckland. Previously, he has choreographed for the Northwest's varsity

show choir (14 Karat Gold) men's number: "Not Too Cool To Dance" for their show last year.

During show choir season they will be competing alongside 14 Karat Gold and the junior varsity show choir, Bella Voce.

"The Doods will be going to the competitions at the same time as 14 Karat, in January and February. They won't be going to every competition, but the Doods will be performing at three of the

same competitions," Jared said.

Although people think the Doods have some very talented members, there are still some things that are drastically different from a co-ed show choir. Yet, they might still make the audience go crazy.

"It's not a full show choir with the ladies and

***"The Doods is a unique group consisting of the most talented and dedicated men in Northwest's choral department."***

***It is a group created to showcase all this talent."***

***- senior Mitch Fisher***

everything, but I think we will still have a great show that the audience will still love," Topher said.

Jared and Topher have come up with their very own definitions for the Doods.

"[The Doods is] a bunch of guys coming together to make something legendary," Jared said.

"The Doods is just a bunch of bros makin' great music," Topher said.



The Doods pose for a picture after a rehearsal.

PHOTO BY KARSEN SEARS

## Northwest High School hosts the annual blood drive

BY KRYSTAL O'BRIEN

The Northwest blood drive has been around for many years. This is hosted by the National Honor Society and FBLA. The Red Cross is in need of blood, and Northwest students are glad to help.

Seniors Luke Sutherland, Maddie Beran, and Emily Bykerk did the work to put on the blood drive. They are a huge reason why Northwest High School was able to do this. They spent about a month planning the blood drive out, and in their last year at Northwest High School, they are doing great things for people in need. Along with the National Honors Society sponsor Kenzie Mollring, they were able to pull it off.

"Those three need to be recognized. They are the ones who did all the planning, all I did was give them the area," Mollring said.

Many people who donate blood are afraid of needles. Some do it because they believe it the right thing to do, some do it because they know they might need blood themselves someday, and others do it just because someone asks them.

There are many benefits to donating blood,

but students say the biggest one is the way they feel after they give blood, knowing that they are saving lives.

"I have done it before, this would be my second year [giving blood] at Northwest. I just like the thought of being able to help save lives. I would do it again," senior Camry Fye said.

However, Fye wasn't the only one who was excited about saving lives.



Health teacher Brandon Harrington gives blood during the annual blood drive.

PHOTO BY CHAZZ RALSTON

"Last year, I [gave blood] and it wasn't bad. I would give blood again because I helped save three lives," senior Meghan O'Brien said.

You can donate blood in the Red Cross building at any time, however, they plan to host another blood drive at Northwest on March 7th, 2017.

There are requirements for donating blood, such as: height, weight, and age. Some students were unable to give blood because they are underweight, have anemia, or don't meet other health criteria.

Last spring the Red Cross collected 76 units of blood. This fall's blood drive collected a total of 66 units of blood. They came close to their goal, which was to collect 70 units of blood.

There were 10 to 15 volunteers, all Northwest National Honor Society and FBLA students, helping at the blood drive throughout the day.

The blood drive was open to more than just the halls of Northwest; parents were welcome to attend, along with anyone else who had heard the news.

All the donors, workers, and volunteers have saved many lives with all their hard work hosting and participating in a blood drive.

This is just one way the Red Cross fulfills their mission to help those in need.



# Skills, thrills, and dollar bills

*Northwest FBLA program  
looks to grow membership*

By EFFY WIDDIFIELD

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a national organization that focuses on helping teens learn about business and get involved with their communities. Northwest's chapter has been working on increasing membership, swelling to 51 students this year.

"Northwest FBLA is expanding this year and we've set our goals high. We have almost doubled

our membership from last year by incorporating more fun events into our schedule," senior and chapter president Matthew Fredricks said.

Northwest FBLA's vice president senior Coleman Cooper shared what potential members might expect of the monthly Sunday night meetings.

"Already this year we've had a rootbeer float party at George Park. This month we are going to Primrose Retirement Community to talk to the Veterans and play cards with the residents," Cooper said.

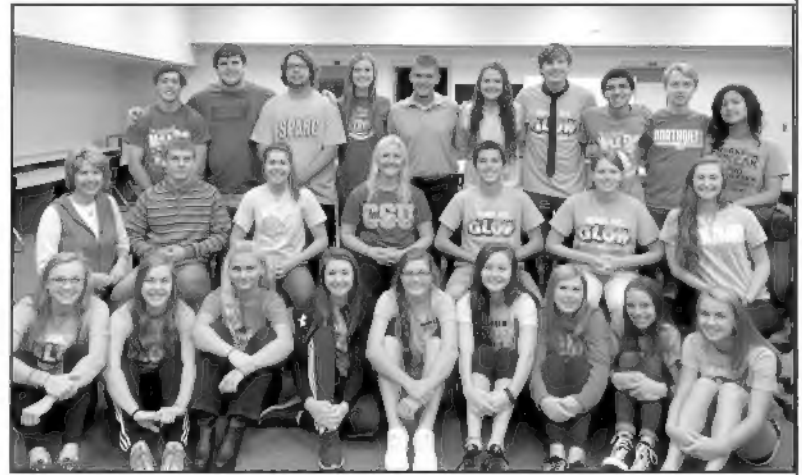
FBLA is supervised by business teacher Lori Cooper, and four out of the nine "officers" (head members) are chosen as Parliamentarians and follow parliamentary procedure to instill student leadership values.

Parliamentary procedure is a formal way to conduct meetings in an organized manner. An issue is presented multiple times for adding

amendments before the bill is finalized; then, the issue is voted on by the supervisor.

The only prerequisite for joining FBLA is to be enrolled in a business class, some of which are required

classes for every sophomore. Northwest's officers stress that students can (and should) join any time of the year, though they might be behind on previous meetings.



FBLA members pose for a photo while dressing up for "Go Green Day."  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI COOPER

## CAPRICORN

22 DECEMBER-20 JANUARY

You are more likely to be successful this month due to your perseverance and determination, yet you will invite stress into your life and become irritable.

## AQUARIUS

21 JANUARY-19 FEBRUARY

You will have an encounter with conflict this month, even though you were dodging it. Block out any negative people and bring in positive and optimistic people who will encourage your dreams, not bring them down.

## PISCES

20 FEBRUARY-20 MARCH

You will turn to your family or companions for your finances this month. You need to come up with a financial plan and take your time doing it. In your health aspect, you will be exposed to infection and illness.

## ARIES

21 MARCH-19 APRIL

You will achieve great things through partner work. A loved one or a friend will back you up in a certain situation. This month, you should try and get involved in your community.

## TAURUS

20 APRIL-20 MAY

The feeling of joy and goodness is upon you this month. November is a great month for you to make some important, long lasting decisions.

## GEMINI

21 MAY-21 JUNE

You will be doing very important work that helps you stick out. In your health aspect, pay close attention to known illnesses around you and do not be risky with your health.

## CANCER

22 JUNE-23 JULY

If you do a job or make a bet for easy money, it will just result in loss. You should participate in activities that need patience and focus. Your overall attitude this month is positive.

## LEO

24 JULY-23 AUGUST

You'll be interested in integrating parties or other activities involving people. In the case of money, you should seek advice from someone in the financial field so you can start being more realistic with your financial decisions.

## VIRGO

24 AUGUST-22 SEPTEMBER

You will be overwhelmed with tasks this month and they will become more and more difficult to fulfill. If you need any medical procedures done, November is the best time to do them.

## LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER-22 OCTOBER

Your money aspect this month is nothing to worry about. Your interests and worries will be on your family and home, but you will be put under pressure and stress.

## SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER-22 NOVEMBER

Success is just a grasp away this month for you, Scorpio. You will be more involved in your family this month and either a parent or relative might have some health problems.

## SAGITTARIUS

23 NOVEMBER-20 DECEMBER

This month, you may think the relationship between you and a parent is tense because they don't understand your needs. Even if it is true, you will just suck it up and do what they tell you to do.

# Review: The "Harry Potter" series continues its success

By KATIE SMALLWOOD

On July 31 of this year, character Harry Potter's 36th birthday, J.K. Rowling released an eighth book for the "Harry Potter" series. "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" was created, with the help of director John Tiffany and playwright Jack Thorne, as a play and formatted like a script.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is set 19 years after the Battle of Hogwarts and Lord Voldemort's demise. Harry has settled into his middle-aged life as a father of three children and as Head Auror for the Ministry of Magic. "The Cursed Child" is focused mainly on Harry's younger son Albus and Draco Malfoy's son Scorpius' journey to grow up in a world threatened by darkness.

Rowling, Tiffany, and Thorne effectively recall events from past "Harry Potter" novels such as the Triwizard Tournament, the use of Polyjuice Potions, and a trip to Godric's Hollow. Readers also get to see into Harry, Dumbledore, and Voldemort's lives once again.

Tensions grow between Harry and Albus, and between Draco and his son Scorpius (who is rumored to be the son of Lord Voldemort). Albus and Scorpius quickly bond over their father-issues and the fact that they're both outcasts by being Slytherins.

Albus resents being the son of the "Chosen One." Although he and young Harry have a lot in common--feeling like outsiders and wanting to prove themselves--Albus and Harry constantly butt heads.

In the Harry Potter books, time and space travel are aided by Pensieves and Portkeys. In "The Cursed Child," travel is aided by Time-Turners. The consequences of time-travel are viewed with many alternate-realities, one of which Lord Voldemort returns as the ruler of the Wizarding Community.

Although readers will miss Rowling's detailed imagination, Thorne uses the complicated balance of good and bad, free will and destiny, and love and hate to his advantage. The forces of darkness are threatening to rise after years of peace, a dynamic that is very typical for Harry Potter fans.

Overall, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is a great addition to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. I recommend it to every Potterhead out there and anyone who enjoys fantasy and a good book.



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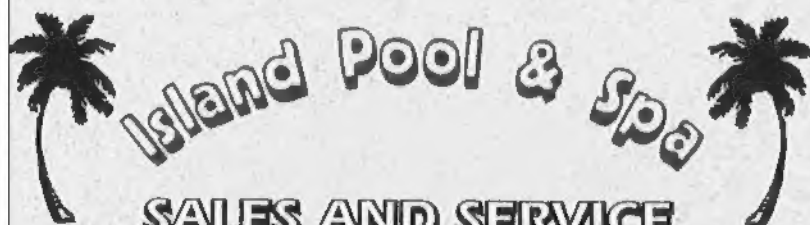


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# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By BRENDEN HOLLING

## AMBER TEUTSCH

**Middle School:** Gretna Middle School

**Activities:** National Honor Society,  
One Act, 14 Karat, Musical, Yearbook.

**Plans after high school:** Go to Arizona State University and study graphic design.

**Advice for underclassmen:** Give your best effort in school and get involved with what you love. It pays off and you can make some really great friends.



## TREYTON RANDALL

**Middle School:** Westridge

**Activities:** GISH Baseball & American Legion  
(Home Federal) Baseball.

**Plans after high school:** Go to college and plan on playing college baseball.

**Advice for underclassmen:**  
Keep your grades up and be involved with the school.



## ANDREW STRECK

**Middle School:** Westridge.

**Activities:** Band, FFA, Trap.

**Plans after high school:** Possibly major in Wildlife Biology or elementary education.

**Advice for underclassmen:**  
Stay focused!




**TD**





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**Congratulations to the students  
who qualified for the All-State  
Band and Chorus!**

## BAND

Dalton Elliott, Topher Rosenlund

## CHORUS

Mitch Fisher, Topher Rosenlund,  
Carissa Jonak, Lauren Gebhardt





## Art students "pin-up" paint

*Four Art V students  
go to Hastings  
College for  
Art Mural Contest*

BY KATE SMALLWOOD



TOP PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CASSIE POKORNEY  
BOTTOM PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ART TEACHER BEAU STUDLEY

In September, art teacher Beau Studley took four of his Art V students to an art mural contest at Hastings college. Seniors Paige Shubert, Sophia Mittelstaedt, Cassie Pokorney, and Emily Broadwell teamed up to create a mural based on the theme "Tattoos Through the Ages".

"The Hastings College Jackson Dinsdale Art Center Mural Competition was a timed painting contest between different high schools.

"We all got about two and a half hours to paint a 46"x76" banner over the given theme. Our theme was 'Tattoos Through the Ages,'" Broadwell said.

Although they didn't place, the whole team earned some new skills.

"Our group did fairly well [considering] the facts that we had never painted as a group, under time constraints (2 hours to finish), on such a large scale, on a tarp on the ground, and with minimal supplies. Having to suddenly obtain these skills all at once was maddening," Mittelstaedt said.

With the theme "Tattoos Through the Ages", Shubert, Mittelstaedt, Pokorney, and Broadwell put their heads together to

come up with their painting.

"We went for a pin-up girl timeline. What I mean by that, is we painted a bomb pin-up girl and tattooed her up head-to-toe in order of what tattoos were popular when. Her face had tribal tattoos and ended with the more modern geometric shapes on her feet that are really in now. Then, we covered the background with pink and white cherry blossoms with a cool Chinese dragon," Shubert said.

Their inspiration came from a simple place.

"To be real, we went off the prompt we were given. We were given a piece of paper with points so we knew what the judges were looking for. They wanted to see the culture where they originated from and so on," Shubert said.

For the whole team, their overall experience was enjoyable.

"It challenged our abilities and, in short summary, stressed us out. After it was all said and done we were physically sore, emotionally worn out, and covered with paint, yet I would definitely do it again if I had the chance, simply because I am one to test my limits when it comes to art and competition," Mittelstaedt said.